

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the significant role of Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, now part of Miami University.

In the summer of 1964, college students, civil rights activists, and volunteers joined together to advance the civil rights of African-Americans in Mississippi. The initiative, called the Mississippi Summer Project, was a comprehensive approach to educate and register African-American voters. Hundreds of volunteers assembled in June 1964 at the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio for training, learning non-violent methods for dealing with potentially violent opposition.

The memory of Freedom Summer lives on in the account of three brave participants—Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman—who lost their lives in the pursuit of civil rights. These young men departed Oxford, Ohio on June 20, 1964 to investigate a church fire in Mississippi and disappeared shortly thereafter. Burned remains of their car were found on June 23, 1964. The disappearance and deaths of Michael, James, and Andrew brought national attention to Freedom Summer and underscored the obstacles and danger that faced each participant.

I am proud of our community and its meaningful role in Freedom Summer. Throughout 2014, Miami University is hosting a series of activities and events entitled “Celebrating Freedom: Understanding the Past, Building the Future.” On October 12–14, 2014, activists and leaders will reunite and join current Miami University students for a national conference to explore the enduring importance of Freedom Summer.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer, it is important to remember this period in our history as more than just a passage in time. Our nation also heralded the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on July 2. The 50th anniversary of these historic events is an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the Civil Rights Movement and to build on the work of the heroic leaders who came before us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 433, 434, 435, and 436 on July 22, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all four votes.

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, because the legislation ensures our continued ability to promote the United States as an international travel destination.

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014, because it reinforces the United States’ position against terrorist organizations. Imposing these sanctions will deter financial institutions and other entities from facilitating financial transactions with Hezbollah.

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1022, the Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2014, because I support permanently authorizing the Department of Energy’s Critical Minerals Institute so that the United States can ensure a reliable supply of elements required for a broad range of advanced technologies and better promote research and development in the public and private sectors.

I would have voted in favor of the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3230, because I agree with the Senate’s broad-based approach to addressing issues in the Department of Veterans Affairs. At this crucial juncture, the Department requires both considerable oversight and support from Congress so that changes are put in place to ensure veterans are receiving the care they have earned and deserve.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ZETA BETA TAU FRATERNITY, AND HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ANTECEDENT GROUP PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, my Brotherhood, and its antecedent group Phi Alpha Fraternity in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Phi Alpha in celebration of the centennial International Convention of Zeta Beta Tau.

Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., on October 14, 1914, by David Davis, Edward Lewis, Hyman Shapiro, Reuben Schmidt and Maurice Herzmark, who saw the need for an idealistic brotherhood. The first pledge ceremony in February 1915 was followed by the establishment of a chapter house, one of the most luxurious establishments in the nation’s capital. At one time, Phi Alpha had chapters at nearly 30 universities, but as with many other fraternities, the Depression and World Wars took their toll. During the uncertain war years, many chapters became inactive when almost all the men in the chapters entered into military service. In April 1959, Phi Alpha Fraternity merged with

Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity, creating a combined fraternity with 47 active chapters. In 1969–70, Phi Sigma Delta merged into Zeta Beta Tau.

Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity has convened its International Convention 100 times since the first event was held in 1906 in New York City. The event presents the opportunity to share Fraternity in its truest sense with brothers from around the world. Washington, D.C., has hosted the International Convention four times, in 1937, 1957, 1974 and 2014.

Today, as a brother of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, I join International President Michael (Mike) D. Cimini, Kappa (Cornell University) ’92, and my entire Brotherhood in honoring the men of Phi Alpha Fraternity. We are honored to celebrate our Fraternity’s 100th Convention in the nation’s capital while honoring Phi Alpha and The George Washington University. I am proud to be a member of the distinguished Brotherhood of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, an organization of men who dedicate this day and every day to fostering leadership and service and developing the tenets of our Credo—Intellectual Awareness, Social Responsibility, Integrity and Brotherly Love—in all brothers.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF SENIOR AIRMAN TIMOTHY J. WRIGHT OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deep sympathy that I pay tribute to the life and dedicated service of Senior Airman Timothy J. “Tim” Wright, of Pensacola, Florida. Tim passed away on July 17, 2014 as a result of injuries sustained during a military readiness exercise at Pope Army Airfield, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Senior Airman Wright, who graduated from the Pensacola Christian Academy in 2003, joined the Air Force in 2009. As a medic, he was first stationed at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California, where he was awarded two medals for Meritorious Service and Outstanding Achievement. He deployed twice to Afghanistan and earned the Air Force Achievement Medal for his service with the 651st Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in Kandahar and the Air Force Achievement Medal for Outstanding Achievement for his service with the 455th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron at Bagram Airfield. During his deployments, he showed interest in becoming an aeromedical evacuation technician, and after successfully completing his training, Senior Airman Wright was transferred to Pope Airfield where he joined the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in May 2014.

Throughout his career, Senior Airman Wright displayed an unyielding commitment to

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

protect and defend this great country and to care for his fellow warriors. To his parents, David and Sylvia; brothers, Aaron and Mathew; and to all of his family and friends, we owe our eternal gratitude. Tim touched the lives of many and displayed dedication to duty and courage of heart. He will always be remembered for his selfless service to this great Nation, and his life will continue to inspire those who knew him best and those who follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Senior Airman Timothy J. Wright. My wife, Vicki, joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers to his family and friends. May God continue to bless them and the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DAVID J.
WILKIE

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel David J. Wilkie, who is retiring after 30 years of Active Duty Service in the United States Army. The valuable leadership demonstrated in his role as Chief of the Neuroscience and Rehabilitation Center at Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC) is indispensable. His position there represents the culmination of a career that has been defined by a drive for excellence.

During his time at the United States Military Academy at West Point, COL Wilkie was a four year distinguished cadet, wearing a star on his collar indicating his rank in the top five percent of his class. In 1987, he was elected by his classmates to the position of Chairman of the Cadet Honor Committee and served on the Brigade Staff as a First Class Cadet. He graduated in 1988, receiving the Army Medical Department Award for the highest academically ranking cadet entering the AMEDD and the General McClellan award for the Chairman of the Cadet Honor Committee.

After graduation from West Point, COL Wilkie completed the AMEDD Officer Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and earned a degree of Doctor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. From there, he completed his internship and residency in Neurology at Madigan Army Medical Center. COL Wilkie has been Board Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology since 1997, scoring in the top five percent nationally on his board Certification exam.

An expert in his field, COL Wilkie has served in leadership positions on staff at DDEAMC and Madigan Army Medical Center, on numerous prestigious boards and committees and important response teams. COL Wilkie led the development of the DDEAMC Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program, and the Level 1 TBI program at DDEAMC was the first program certified by the Office of the Surgeon General in 2009. COL Wilkie was also instrumental in developing the Integrated Pain Management Clinic at DDEAMC, again the first such program active in the Department of Defense.

Additionally, COL Wilkie served as Battalion Surgeon for 2–3 Infantry Battalion in Mosul, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. In 2013, he served as US FORCES–Afghanistan Neurology consultant at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Navy Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Air Assault Badge and Combat Medic Badge.

COL Wilkie truly has made leadership and service his calling. In his own community, he coaches little league sports, participates in medical education programs, serves on the St. Teresa of Avila Parish Council, and operates the Parish Angel Gabriel Message charity, an organization he founded that supports local families facing childhood cancer.

In a profession that is saturated with talent, intelligence, and leadership, COL Wilkie has managed to distinguish himself among his peers. For this reason, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to applaud the great work of Colonel David Wilkie following three decades of outstanding service to the United States Armed Forces.

HONORING RENEE THERIAULT
WEBBER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Renee Theriault Webber upon her retirement from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) after thirty years of dedicated service. As the Division Manager for the SCWA's Environmental and Public Affairs Division, Ms. Webber made significant contributions to the conservation and management of environmental resources and water use in Sonoma County.

Ms. Webber has devoted her professional life to environmental conservation. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from California State University, Sacramento. She is a member of both the Association of Environmental Professionals and the California Native Plant Society.

Among her innumerable contributions while with the SCWA, Ms. Webber coordinated the development of a national coalition to secure Congressional authorization for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Established in fiscal year 2000, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund aims to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead populations as well as their habitats.

In addition to her work with the SCWA, Ms. Webber was also a principal manager of the North Bay Water Reuse Program. This program brings together three counties and ten water and sanitation agencies to address water supply shortages by working to develop recycled water as a new water supply source. When fully implemented, the North Bay Water Reuse Program will produce 33,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year in order to maximize the water supply in the North Bay.

Ms. Weber is credited by her colleagues as being able to see both sides of an issue and then build consensus among those with differing opinions. Ms. Webber's leadership in environmental management and water reuse is greatly appreciated and will certainly be missed. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Ms. Webber for her public service and wish her a most enjoyable retirement.

RECOGNIZING JAMES C.
MCCLOSKEY

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of James C. McCloskey who has served for the past 34 years as the Founder and Executive Director of Centurion Ministries of Princeton, New Jersey, and has been a tireless advocate for people wrongly convicted across our country.

A native of Philadelphia, Jim graduated from Bucknell University in 1964. After three years as a naval officer in Japan and Vietnam, Jim spent 13 years in business in Tokyo and Philadelphia. After his stint in the business world, Jim opted for a change and went to pursue a Masters in Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. During that time Jim served as a student chaplain at the Trenton State Prison where he met then inmate Jorge De Los Santos.

After listening to the convicted man's claims of innocence Jim took it upon himself to review the case.

After reading the entire record of the case, he came to believe that Mr. De Los Santos was innocent. Jim then, using his own money, spent the next three years, including a year-long sabbatical from seminary, investigating Mr. De Los Santos' case. After bringing forward the only witness against Mr. De Los Santos, Jim hired a young lawyer, Paul Casteleiro, to have the case retried. In July 1983 Mr. De Los Santos was exonerated and freed and Centurion Ministries was launched. Jim knew that this was his calling for the rest of his life.

Most of the early cases came from the stories that Mr. De Los Santos had told Jim regarding several other men Mr. De Los Santos believed were innocent. Upon reading their case files Jim came to believe them, too. Jim worked alone until 1987 when he obtained his fifth exoneration and the general public took notice of this remarkable work he was doing.

He founded Centurion Ministries in order to bring voice to those who have lost all appeals and thus all hope of having their wrongful convictions brought to light. Beginning with a staff of just himself, Centurion Ministries has grown and now has eight full time staff, five part time staff, and a group of 23 part time volunteers who dedicate their time to the cause of the wrongfully convicted.

Centurion Ministries takes on the difficult cases. They do not shun cases that can turn on DNA evidence, but because there are other avenues for inmates whose cases have DNA evidence, Centurion Ministries' focus has been primarily on cases that require a field investigation and a very savvy lawyer. To date Centurion Ministries has overturned the wrongful

conviction of 53 individuals who have served a combined 1083 years wrongfully imprisoned, and at any given time is working on 20 or so cases at various stages of investigation.

I cannot stress strongly enough the courage and heart Jim exemplifies in this now crowded field of work. He not only chose to work for people he did not know, but he used his own money to do so. Unlike most of the people doing similar work today who have universities to pay their salaries and give them office and staff, Jim had only himself to rely on. He lived modestly and devoted himself to this cause. His commitment to these individuals he works for does not end with their freedom. They are family.

Although Jim has announced he will no longer have an active role in the day to day operations of Centurion Ministries in the spring of next year, I know that he will continue to be a force for justice for years to come. He is a very special person. I join many admirers of Jim McCloskey in thanking him for his work and wishing him well in the future.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which helps provide civil legal aid to low-income Americans who otherwise would be unable to afford legal representation. LSC was created in 1974 through a bipartisan effort by Republicans and Democrats in Congress and was signed into law by President Nixon.

Today, LSC provides funding to 134 local legal aid programs, which operate nearly 800 offices in every congressional district around the country. Funding provided through LSC supports low-income Americans, including women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned and seniors defending against consumer scams, among other cases. LSC-funded attorneys help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

As chairman of the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee from 2001–2006 and again since 2011, I have worked closely with the LSC leadership to support these programs and ensure that funding is spent efficiently and appropriately. I have also worked with my colleagues in Congress and LSC leadership to mitigate partisan issues that undermine support for this program. Through these efforts, we have been able to ensure that LSC funding is focused on supporting legitimate civil legal aid needs by those Americans who need it most.

Over the past several years, I have encouraged LSC to do more to engage law firms and

bar associations to expand pro bono services in coordination with the corporation. In response, the LSC board created a Pro Bono Task Force in 2011 and produced a comprehensive report with innovative ideas to bolster national pro bono efforts. I want to credit LSC Board Chairman John Levi and LSC President Jim Sandman for their leadership on this project, which has the potential to further extend LSC's support for low-income Americans.

Forty years after its creation, the LSC fills a critical gap by providing low-income Americans with legal assistance they wouldn't otherwise have access to. I want to commend the Legal Services Corporation and the attorneys working in our communities for the work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) on its 40th anniversary. Forty years ago, President Nixon signed into law the LSC Act, establishing the Legal Services Corporation as one of the major sources of funding for civil legal aid. In the time since, LSC has grown to be the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans.

Legal Services Corporation-funded legal aid programs continue to make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. LSC funds 134 legal aid organizations that serve hundreds of thousands of low-income individuals, children, families, seniors, and veterans across America. These individuals range from women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, and seniors defending against consumer scams.

Demand for legal services and the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater in this country. In recent years, however, over 1,000 full time employees have been terminated as a result of a continued lack of funding for LSC. So while we reflect on the achievements of LSC over the last forty years, Congress must also renew its commitment to providing LSC the critical resources it needs to assist our most vulnerable.

On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote numbers 433, 434, 435, and 436 on July 22, 2014, and rollcall vote numbers 437, 438, 439, 440, and 441 on July 23, 2014.

I would like to submit how I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 433 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 434 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 435 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 436 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 437 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 438 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 439 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 440 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 441 I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE SGT. MARK WERT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to offer my congratulations to Middletown Township Police Sgt. Mark Wert for 33 years of outstanding service to the people of my home community and its police department.

As always, the community owes a debt of gratitude to those first responders who, each day, selflessly protect our lives and property. Sgt. Wert began his career on July 15, 1981, moving to squad supervisor and then administration overseeing the Traffic Safety Unit. He also was the instructor for Emergency Vehicle Operations and one of the department's first Field Training Officers. His dedication is recognized by the responsibilities he took on within the police department and also in the community. He was a director of the Transportation Management Association of Bucks County and active in the community's volunteer fire service—Skyline Fire Association and William Penn Fire Co.

Sgt. Wert's retirement begins on August 1, 2014 and so, on behalf of the grateful community where I live and that I represent in this House, I extend sincere appreciation to Sgt. Mark Wert and wish him many healthy and happy retirement years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,610,253,000,219.65. We've added \$6,983,375,951,306.57 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

STRENGTHENING THE TRANS-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN THE FACE OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, ongoing events in Ukraine, especially the tragedy involving Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, pose a significant security threat not only to Europe but also the world. Russia's military aggression, its tacit support of pro-Russian Ukrainian separatists, and its use of energy as a political weapon warrant a strong response. The United States and our European allies must take strong and definitive action to strengthen the transatlantic alliance, and stem Russian aggression and its efforts to destabilize the region.

The United States must stand with our European allies and re-emphasize its commitment to a strong security alliance. While I agree with the overall goal of President Obama's European Reassurance Initiative to increase U.S. rotational deployments, allied training, and strategic planning, ultimately this proposal lacks a long-term strategy and commitment to our partnership with Europe. We can and must do more.

That is why I authored H.R. 4433, the Forging Peace through Strength in Ukraine and the Transatlantic Alliance Act, which calls for decisive action to remedy the current crisis in Ukraine and deter greater Russian aggression in Europe. Specifically, the measure would bolster U.S.-Ukraine security relations by seeking to provide technical assistance to the Ukrainian military and increase U.S. intelligence information sharing. H.R. 4433 would also authorize the Secretary of Defense to ensure the operational availability of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system site in Poland and require the deployment of a short-range air and missile defense system to Poland. In addition, the bill would require the Secretary of Defense to stop plans for the relocation and consolidation of U.S. dual-capable aircraft based in Europe, conduct site studies for the construction of weapon storage and security systems and protective aircraft shelters in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, and coordinate with NATO

countries to assess the possibility of altering the posture of forward deployed U.S. nuclear weapons. Several of the provisions of my legislation are included in the House-passed version of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

Strengthening the NATO alliance is also a critical component to pushing back against Russian aggression. The partnership between the United States and Europe through NATO has been the bedrock of stability in the region. However, it is clear that Russia seeks to once again destabilize much of Eastern Europe and restore its control over territories lost following the collapse of the Soviet Union. We must provide immediate reassurance to our European allies that the United States remains firm in our commitment to security. We must also make a strong push for the further enlargement of NATO. Specifically, the United States should support the accession of Montenegro, put a full diplomatic press on the issue of resolving the conflict between Macedonia and Greece, seek resolution to the constitutional issues of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and encourage the membership prospects of Georgia through the Membership Action Plan process. In fact, I authored an amendment, which the House approved unanimously, to the House-passed Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act expressing strong support for the ongoing NATO enlargement initiatives.

Bolstering regional and global energy security is another key aspect of the transatlantic alliance. Russia has repeatedly used natural gas pricing to draw governments closer to its orbit and punished West-leaning governments with higher prices. Previous disputes between Ukraine and Russia led to natural gas shutoffs in 2006 and 2009, negatively affecting downstream European countries. In April 2014, Russia's state-owned monopoly, Gazprom, increased the price of natural gas on Ukraine by 80 percent. And in early June 2014, Gazprom cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

The United States must continue to support efforts to help our European allies diversify their energy resources. In fact, multiple U.S. Administrations have previously supported initiatives to supply Europe with alternative and reliable sources of energy, such as the Southern Gas Corridor which will bring natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe. That is why I authored H. Res. 284, a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor to energy security and our strategic partnerships.

At the same time, energy diversification initiatives may offer opportunities to benefit the United States economically. For instance, U.S. companies are involved in the development of growing recent natural gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean, which may help countries in the region to bolster political and economic ties and present another source of energy for Europe. And many of our European allies have expressed strong interest in purchasing U.S. natural gas to help diversify their resources and strengthen their independence.

Increasing U.S. natural gas exports, along with development of other sources such as the Southern Gas Corridor and the Eastern Mediterranean, will help diversify world natural gas supplies and create a more competitive, transparent, and diversified global natural gas marketplace. This will help curb the ability of

countries like Russia to use energy as a political weapon.

In fact, U.S. natural gas production has already influenced global markets. Natural gas previously destined for the United States, but no longer needed as a result of increased production, was diverted to other markets. This increased supply has made the global natural gas market more competitive, helping to put pressure on contracts indexed to the price of oil and allowing several European countries to successfully renegotiate their long-term contracts with Gazprom.

Lifting self-imposed restrictions on U.S. natural gas exports will emphasize to our allies that the United States is a strong energy security partner and send an immediate signal to markets that new supplies of natural gas will be available, helping to influence prices and new infrastructure construction decisions. And regardless of where U.S. natural gas is shipped, increasing supply in the global marketplace will help provide international consumers with greater choice and thus increased leverage to negotiate pricing contracts. In fact, Obama Administration officials, including the State Department's energy envoy, Carlos Pascual, have made this very argument.

In addition, fostering a more diverse and competitive global natural gas market can complement U.S. and European sanctions on Russia. Oil and gas receipts constitute more than 50 percent of Russia's federal revenues.

President Obama, in a March 2014 joint statement with European leaders, welcomed U.S. natural gas exports to help our European allies. While I am encouraged by the President's statement, immediate action is needed to put force behind these words.

Over the past several years, I have worked to reduce self-imposed regulatory barriers to exporting U.S. natural gas. Specifically, in the 112th Congress I authored with then-Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), H.R. 6699, the LNG for NATO Act, which sought to expedite U.S. natural gas exports to NATO countries. In the 113th Congress, I authored with Senator JOHN BARRASSO (R-WY), H.R. 580, the Expedited LNG for American Allies Act, to expedite U.S. natural gas exports to NATO countries, Japan, and other countries of national security interest. I also authored H.R. 4139, the American Job Creation and Strategic Alliances LNG Act, to expedite U.S. natural gas exports to World Trade Organization countries.

And I am an original co-author of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, which the House recently approved with bipartisan support, to require the Department of Energy to consider natural gas export permit applications in a timely manner. It is imperative that the President work with Congress on these energy security initiatives to follow through on his stated support of global energy security and U.S. natural gas exports.

The United States, in partnership with our European allies, must respond strongly to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Reinforcing our defense relationships with Europe, particularly Ukraine and Eastern Europe, strengthening our strategic partnerships through NATO, and enhancing European and global energy security are critical components to bolstering the transatlantic alliance and deterring further Russian aggression in the region.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
WILLIAM D. BERNIER AND NINE
OTHER BRAVE AMERICANS

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th, 1944, as many as 60 B-24 Liberators from the Fifth Air Force attacked enemy anti-aircraft targets and airfields on the northern coast of New Guinea.

One of those heavy bombers, known as "Hot Garter," was hit by flak and went down with its crew of 12. On board was First Lieutenant William D. Bernier from Augusta, Montana.

The remains of nine of these brave Americans, including First Lieutenant Bernier were determined to be "unrecoverable" but due to technological advances, his remains were recently identified and will soon be at rest in Montana.

It is the solemn duty of our nation to not leave any behind who have made the ultimate sacrifice. On behalf of the state of Montana, thank you to those who worked diligently to bring William home.

COMMENDING PRIME MINISTER
NAJIB RAZAK OF MALAYSIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia for his leadership in negotiating the release of the remains of the victims killed in the downing of flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Prime Minister Najib held a series of secret talks with the separatists to broker an agreement for the return of the bodies and the promise of safe passage for recovery teams going to the crash site. He also secured the return of the black boxes of flight MH17 so that a full investigation may ensue.

Prime Minister Najib's personal involvement in the negotiations sets the standard for diplomacy around the world. I commend Prime Minister Najib for not leaving negotiations to aides.

Some matters in life are sacred, and I am pleased that Prime Minister Najib recognized this situation as such. I thank him for setting aside politics for a higher purpose—to return the bodies of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters to the families who lost and loved them. I praise him for doing what others would not or could not.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by this tragedy. After a full and fair investigation, I am hopeful that those responsible will be held accountable.

HONORING RICH SALVESTRIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich Salvestrin, the re-

cipient of the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2014 Agriculturist of the Year Award. Mr. Salvestrin has been, and continues to be, a tireless advocate and fierce supporter of agriculture in the Napa Valley. It is therefore appropriate that we recognize and thank Mr. Salvestrin today for his unwavering support and relentless efforts to preserve and promote agriculture in Napa County.

Mr. Salvestrin was born and grew up in St. Helena, California. His education in agriculture began at an early age. By the time he was ten, he was helping his father and grandfather prune vines on the family vineyard. Mr. Salvestrin went on to attend California State University, Fresno, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Viticulture. After completing his degree, Mr. Salvestrin returned to his family's vineyard, where he applied his education and experience to expand the family business from a grape growing operation to include winemaking.

Mr. Salvestrin has worked with the Napa County Farm Bureau for nearly three decades to advance agriculture in the Napa Valley. Soon after joining the Bureau in 1985, Rich joined the Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Program, where he completed the Ag Leadership program in the early 1990s. Rich began serving on the Napa County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors in 1994 and notably, he served as the president of the Napa County Farm Bureau from 1999–2001.

Rich has been a leader in protecting the Napa Valley's farmland and watersheds. He was a crucial supporter of the Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming Program. He also serves as a board member on the Napa County Winegrape Pest & Disease Control District. And as a member of the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Action Team, he helped to control an invasive species that threatened the region's livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Salvestrin's leadership in the wine industry and viticultural preservation is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him further success in an already distinguished career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 439–441, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 439, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 440, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 441, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY HAROLD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Shirley Harold for her hard

work and determination in the fight to keep young kids safe around water.

In March 2008, Ms. Harold experienced the pain no parent or grandparent should ever have to. Her 2-year-old grandson J'Mari drowned in a swimming pool.

Since then, her goal has been to educate her community on the importance of swimming lessons, CPR and layers of protection to prevent drowning.

In 2007, I ushered through Congress the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, the first federal pool and spa safety law on the books in our country.

This law has a specific focus on public swimming pools, which is a key component in the fight against accidental drowning.

But we all know that many of these tragedies are occurring in residential swimming pools as well, which VGB does not cover.

Despite our best efforts to find common sense solutions to these preventable tragedies, we are collectively frustrated and disappointed that we haven't been able to get a better handle on how to resolve what we believe is a preventable crisis.

We have already experienced 7 drowning deaths among children 0–4 years of age in Broward County this year. And that doesn't include the near-drowning victims.

It pains me to say that Florida is leading the nation in drownings under age 14, with 32 deaths between January and May occurring statewide. At this time last year there were 14 deaths.

Since J'Mari's death in 2008, Shirley has become a fierce advocate for pool safety. On Saturday, July 26, her foundation, J'Mari and Friends is holding a community forum. Parents and children will learn CPR and drowning prevention tips.

I commend Shirley's commitment in her dedication to teaching young children to swim.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEE
MILLER, SR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Lee Miller was born and raised in Tutwiler, Mississippi. He was educated in the Mississippi public school system during the 1930's and 1940's. He was baptized, attended the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and sung with the Delta Big Four Quartet.

In 1947, James married Ms. Essie Davis and they were blessed with four sons. He later united with Charlene Davies and to that union another four children were born. In the midst of his family life, James continued school, became a certified electrician and worked for local electric companies.

For over forty-five years James Miller, Sr. was a businessman and was well-known around Chicago. He was involved in the social entertainment business and that is where many people knew him.

His nightclub, The Texas Lady Lounge, was for many years one of the most popular spots in the community.

As a matter of fact for ten years I lived less than four blocks from the Texas Lady and it was not at all unusual for me and my friends

to have our discussions in the lounge over a glass of water, or whatever else we might be drinking.

I have been told that one's impact on the world is measured not only by what they bring but also by what they leave and Mr. James Miller has left a great impact and tremendous legacy, a devoted wife, twelve children, a host of grandchildren, relatives and friends. Prominent among them great preachers and leaders, Johnny Miller, Rev. Dr. Matthew Miller, Pastor Leon Miller and a great hands-on physician whose office I have used Dr. James Miller, Jr.

The Miller family is cherished in our community and this could not have happened without the life and the legacy of Mr. James Miller, Sr., born December 9, 1929.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every

day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

STRENGTHENING CHILD WELFARE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act. As a co-chair of the Foster Youth Caucus and a former foster parent, I am grateful for this legislation, as it recognizes a terrible and undeniable truth about our child welfare system.

Statistics show that foster children are highly vulnerable to being sexually trafficked. This bill will lay out needed provisions to identify and track victims within the already existing National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems and ensure that each state is not only prepared to spot the signs of victimization, but also adequately help those who have been rescued.

This bill is an important step in coordinating state and federal efforts and resources, to give victims the necessary individualized care, and to stop this terrible assault on children.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) as they celebrate their 40th anniversary this Friday, July 25th.

In 1974, Congress established LSC to better ensure equal access to justice under the law. LSC was created with bipartisan support, and the authorizing legislation was signed into law by President Nixon. The goal of the program from the outset has been to ensure access to civil legal assistance to those who are otherwise unable to afford it. LSC does this by distributing federal funding to local legal aid providers who in turn use the funding to address the needs of our constituents. Today, the LSC distributes funding to 134 local providers who have offices in every congressional district in our nation, as well as in the U.S. territories.

The programs make a vital difference in the lives of millions of ordinary Americans each year. Lawyers funded by LSC help families facing unlawful evictions, women seeking protection from abuse, veterans seeking benefits, seniors defending against consumer scams, and mothers seeking child support. In my home town of New York City, LSC funding also provided crucial assistance to low-income individuals who faced problems as a result of Superstorm Sandy and had nowhere else to turn.

For all the good work that LSC-funded programs do, there is still more to be done. LSC

funded entities are forced to turn away 50 percent of eligible individuals seeking assistance. This gap, known as the justice gap, shows that we have come a long way, but we must do more to ensure there is adequate funding for LSC and the programs that they serve. As a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight to increase funding for this worthy program.

Mr. Speaker, justice should not be limited only to those who can afford it. Equal access to our justice system is at the essence of our democracy. Our court system should allow everyone who has a legitimate grievance to pursue justice with the best possible representation. For the past 40 years, LSC and all of its grantees have helped ensure that our nation lives up to these ideals. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating LSC for their good work over the past 40 years.

PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This bill advances child welfare policy in many important ways. For over a decade, I have advocated via the Stronger Families Act or the Investing in Permanency for Youth in Foster Care Act that federal policy should incentivize permanency for all foster youth regardless of how they exit care—adoption, guardianship, or reunification. I am especially pleased that H.R. 4980 takes a tremendous step forward in recognizing guardianship as an important permanency option for foster children who cannot return home. For the first time, the bill provides incentives for states for placing foster children with legal guardians.

Guardianship and kinship caregiving are very significant for Chicago, for Illinois, and for the African American community. My Congressional District has the highest percentage of children living with grandparent caregivers in the nation, followed closely by two other Congressional Districts in Illinois. Nearly 400,000 children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four (approximately 28%) of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Research clearly shows that kinship foster care families are safer, more stable placements that are more likely to keep children connected with their siblings and communities than non-relative placements.

Adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care, with courts explicitly ruling out this option for thousands of children each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally availed by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Research—including a report by the Government Accountability Office—indicates that African American children stay in foster care longer because of difficulties in recruiting adoptive parents and a hesitancy to terminate parental rights, as is required for adoption. Importantly,

a study of the Illinois Subsidized Guardianship Demonstration Waiver showed that the offer of subsidized guardianship increased overall rates of family permanency by six percentage points over and above the level of performance in a randomly assigned control group that was limited to the option of adoption only. African American and Native American families tend to choose guardianship as a route to permanency rather than adoption because they do not see a need to legally sever the connection between parent and child. A grandmother raising her grandchild does not want to erase the legal connection of her child to her grandchild. Guardianship affords the same legal responsibility for a child as adoption only without legally severing the familial connection.

Thus, I applaud the bill for including an incentive for guardianship that is four-fifths the incentive for adoption as well as a guardianship incentive equal to that for that for adoption for older youth. Rewarding states for helping foster youth find permanent, loving homes via guardianship or adoption allows families to make the right permanency choice that best fits the particular needs and circumstances of their family, rather than incentivizing states to prioritize adoption alone.

To further support relative caregivers, I am very pleased that the bill extends the Family Connection Grants for one year. These grants provide funding for intensive family finding, kinship navigator programs, family group decision-making meetings, and residential family treatment programs. These programs promote permanency for children in care. In addition to the positive outcomes for foster children in relative care, research shows that kinship care placements are cost effective. In Illinois, cost studies estimated an average of \$4,778 in savings of IV-E administrative expenses over an 8 year period compared to a matched control group that did not have this option. Extrapolating to the 10,000 children in Illinois discharged to guardianship between 1997 and 2007, the projected savings was approximately \$48 million for the state of Illinois. Thus, Family Connection Grants improves the access of foster youth to safer, more stable family placements and reduce costs for state and federal governments.

Further, I am delighted that the bill includes comparable successor-guardian protections for children who exit to guardianship as those protections provided to youth who exit to adoption. Given that guardianship is an important permanency option for grandparent caregivers who are older and have health problems, the issue of continuity of care via successor guardianship is especially needed to protect children. Current law already provides this protection for adoptive parents; extending this protection to children in guardianship is a reasonable step to protect youth and keep them from re-entering the foster care system.

The bill implements many important changes to child welfare law, including: protecting children and youth at risk for sex trafficking; ensuring the foster youth have important documents when exiting care; empowering foster youth in the development of their own case plans; improving information in child welfare reports; modifying the calculation of permanency incentives based on improvements in rate rather than number to better capture placement success; enhancing reporting requirements related to the use of state

dollars; strengthening benefits and services; and increasing funding for the Chafee Independent Living program.

Given the dramatic improvements to child welfare policy made by this bill, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe 40 years passing since the division of the island of Cyprus, and to again encourage a final agreement to bring peace and prosperity to all Cypriots.

Every year, many of my colleagues call for the peaceful reunification of Cyprus citing the 1974 military action by Turkey; however, few note what precipitated that act.

Eleven years prior, in 1963, the Partnership Republic of Cyprus crumbled due to a Greek-backed coup and its ensuing violence. And, in 1974, Greek-backed military rules staged another coup in an effort to unify Cyprus and Greece, at the expense of the rights of Turkish Cypriots.

In addition to the 40th anniversary of Cyprus' division, I would like to note that this year also marks the 10th anniversary of the Annan Plan, where Turkish Cypriots showed their good faith to the international community and a desire to move forward to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation by voting overwhelmingly for the plan. In the years of pessimism that has followed, Cypriots from both communities have maintained the hope that a comprehensive solution can be achieved. And, recent discussions between both parties has given the citizens—and me—renewed hope.

In this air of cautious optimism, I call upon both Cyprus and Greece to redouble their efforts to secure a final agreement. I also want to call on the Administration to do everything within its power to encourage and support this process. I urge my colleagues, who I know wish nothing but the best for the island's peoples, to focus on the need to resolve a problem that has gone on for far too long, for the benefit of all Cypriots.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, one of the founding principles of our republic is equal justice under the law. But the promise of justice for all is an empty one without access to legal assistance. I rise today to honor the Legal Services Corporation, which for 40 years has played a vital role in ensuring all Americans, regardless of income, have proper representation in court.

Studies consistently show that in contested matters in court involving fundamental issues

like housing, education and family law, the outcome of the case often turns on whether one has legal representation. And with the growing number of Americans eligible for legal assistance, the need for the Legal Services Corporation has never been greater. That is why it is so important that Congress provides them with the funding they need to get the job done. Thank you to the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel.

H.R. 3393 THE STUDENT AND FAMILY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT AND H.R. 4935 THE CHILD TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3393 the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act and H.R. 4935 the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act.

These bills that come before the House this week continue the weekly pattern of picking and choosing which tax extenders to make permanent. Instead of looking at all of the tax extenders comprehensively Republicans are again picking the extenders that many Members may find easy to support and making them permanent while failing to pay for them. I find it ironic that Representative CAMP has continued to bring permanent extenders to the floor, some of which he chose not to extend at all when he released his plan for comprehensive tax reform earlier this year.

H.R. 4935 expands the tax credit for families making as much as \$160,000, families for which the tax credit is not essential. This legislation also changes the nature of the tax credit and will result in a family making as little as \$14,500 to receive no tax credit, a credit that they desperately need. We should be expanding tax credits for low income families, not eliminating them.

H.R. 3393 seeks to lessen the burden on students and families seeking a higher education. While this is a noble goal, it does nothing to fix the underlying issue of paying for higher education, student loan debt. The class of 2012 graduated with an average of \$29,400 in student loan debt; this legislation does nothing to address this. Instead of giving a tax break on tuition and other expenses we should reduce the need for student loans. We should double Pell Grant Funding. We should permanently extend and double Perkins funding. We should allow students to refinance student loan debt. Any one of these would do more good for student and families than this tax credit.

This Congress cannot continue blindly to pass permanent tax breaks. I have seen firsthand what happens when we take that approach. We did that under President Bush and went from budget surpluses to budget deficits. Deficits that have pushed Congress to reduce investment in our country in recent years.

I look forward to Congress addressing the tax extenders that require action by the end of the year in a serious way, not the way in which they have been brought before us thus far.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEBBIE SIMMONS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Debbie Simmons. Ms. Simmons is a native Floridian, born and raised in Miami. In spite of rigid family and societal opposition, she dreamt of marrying and raising a family with her high school girlfriend.

Ms. Simmons moved to Orlando in 1978. Later that same year, Harvey Milk was assassinated, profoundly impacting her life and leading her to extensively educate herself about gay rights, the Stonewall riots and the 1979 and 1987 Marches on Washington. She later attended the 1993 and 2000 March on Washington.

In 1990, she bought her first home with her partner of two years and prepared mock legal and financial documents to mimic a real marriage. In 1991 she walked in the first gay pride parade in Orlando, which marked the beginning of her community activism.

In 1992, she co-founded the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA), Central Florida's LGBT chamber of commerce. She served as the first vice president, and in a few months the board of directors appointed her president. She served in that role for 16 years. During her tenure, she organized six MBA Business Expos, the first of which was in 1994 with 89 vendors. She also produced and published yearly member business directories dubbed the MBA Buyer's Guide.

Her organization also hosted numerous forums and town hall meetings for local political candidates. This political involvement resulted in a change to the City of Orlando's anti-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation, providing protections for 3,200 city employees. The efforts also resulted in policy changes at the Orlando Police Department to end discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Ms. Simmons also co-founded the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance committee. In 2002, the committee succeeded in its effort when the City of Orlando amended its citywide anti-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

In addition, Ms. Simmons created MBA's subsidiary organization, Come Out With Pride. She developed and produced the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Come Out With Pride parade and festival. Additionally, she wrote its logistics manual and served as logistics director in 2008.

Through her work with MBA, Ms. Simmons also developed and produced the Central Florida LGBT History project in 2005, to preserve and chronicle the local LGBT movement. She partnered with the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union (GLBSU) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) to develop future community leaders, new businesses, and lifetime relationships through scholarships, mentoring, and internships. Ms. Simmons has also spearheaded numerous consortiums to build consensus, strengthen leadership, and enrich the community.

I am happy to honor Ms. Debbie Simmons, during LGBT Pride Month, for her leadership

and commitment to the LGBT community in Central Florida.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to urge the United States to advocate for a resolution to the ongoing conflict in Cyprus. July 20, 2014 marked the 40th anniversary of the division of Cyprus, and it is in the best interest of the United States to foster a state in which Greek and Turkish Cypriots may peacefully coexist.

In Congress, I have supported legislation that promotes a comprehensive peace agreement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. I support discussions resuming to finally identify a settlement to this protracted conflict. It is my hope that a peaceful resolution to the territorial dispute will soon become reality and I am pleased with the progress that Cyprus continues to make with the United Nations and the United States. It is encouraging that the President of Cyprus has established several confidence-building measures that could lead to productive negotiations, measures that the United States has endorsed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the State Department to work with the government of Cyprus for the advancement of democracy, human rights, and the interests of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 22, 2014, I missed four recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 433, "yea" on rollcall 434, "yea" on rollcall 435, and "nay" on rollcall 436.

ADVANCING COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3136) to establish a demonstration program for competency-based education:

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, I submit an amendment to H.R. 3136, the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act. My Amendment would require the Secretary of Education to report to Congress, once every ten years, the needs of limited English proficient students using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Mr. Chair, I represent a substantial number of new Americans who have worked very hard to provide for their families and make a better life for their children. These children have worked hard, made good grades, and have earned their way into college. Like most Americans, they need help affording college. FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is the key form that students and their parents need to fill out to determine the federal financial aid they qualify for.

Applying for financial aid can be a difficult and confusing process for any student. When students and their families don't understand the financial obligations associated with student loans, they often waste their own money and government dollars.

This is a particular problem for newer American students and their families, who can face significant language barriers when using FAFSA. These families often end up relying on for-profit companies that charge hundreds of dollars to help translate this free application.

My amendment is an important step towards addressing the issues facing limited English proficient students. By requiring the Department of Education to report to Congress, we ensure greater transparency from the Administration on how they serve the needs of these students.

TRIBUTE TO CARL F. AYLESTOCK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the esteemed military career of Transportation Corporal Carl F. Aylestock. Corporal Aylestock's service and devotion are to be commended, and the people of West Virginia and the United States owe him an immense debt of gratitude.

Corporal Carl Aylestock began serving his country in 1941 when he enlisted in the United States Army during the Second World War. He went overseas in 1942 with the 29th Infantry Division for 18 months of rigorous training in England, specializing in amphibious operations. The 29th was one of the first divisions to arrive in the European theatre.

After landing on Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion, serving in the Battle of the Bulge and participating in the occupation force in Germany, Corporal Aylestock was honorably discharged from service. In honor of his accomplishments, Corporal Aylestock was awarded a series of awards and decorations including: the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Ribbon with a Bronze Arrowhead, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with three stars. In addition, his regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their valor on D-Day.

Now, 70 years later, Corporal Aylestock lives in Jane Lew, West Virginia, and is about to turn 100 years old in September. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of West Virginia and the United States of America, I would like to thank Corporal Carl Aylestock for his years of selfless service to our State and country.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND FATHER CHRISTIAN
R. ORAVEC

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Reverend Father Christian R. Oravec and to remember this dedicated man of faith who did so much for the people of Pennsylvania.

Father Oravec made it his life's work to give back to the community through service. He was a respected leader, serving as President of St. Francis University for 27 years. During that time he was instrumental in driving the school's continued growth, as well as offering guidance to generations of students as they passed through the university's doors each year. His leadership allowed St. Francis to thrive, and his frequent sightings across campus were a cherished part of the college experience for countless students. He was someone that students could look to for guidance, and was a person that they knew they could trust.

Father Oravec's leadership extended far beyond campus. He maintained a deep commitment to the community, serving as a leader and role model with involvement in over 16 different civic organizations. He was a devout man who dedicated his life to humbly serve a higher calling, and ministered at parishes both in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and overseas in Europe. With Father Oravec's passing, Pennsylvania has lost one of its most beloved sons, but the memory of his work will remain with all those whose lives he touched. I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Father Oravec and remembering the lasting difference that he made for so many.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
PINEVILLE CITY MARSHAL,
LARRY JEANE

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pineville City Marshal, Larry Jeane, who recently passed away at the age of 68.

A resident of Pineville, Louisiana for more than 45 years, Mr. Jeane's service to his local community earned him numerous honors and awards. He served as City Marshal for 17 years and spent 24 years working in the criminal justice, public safety and corrections field where he received the Charles Dunbar Career Civil Service Award for his service. Mr. Jeane was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pineville and an avid supporter of his alma mater, Louisiana College, where he was heavily involved in the athletic department.

Mr. Jeane exemplified strong leadership and dedication to all who had the honor of knowing

him. I am grateful for his years of dedicated service to his community and for the pride he brought to the City of Pineville. It is with great pride that I recognize the life of such an accomplished and admirable man, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating Mr. Larry Jeane and his achievements.

HONORING RETIRED U.S. AIR
FORCE MAJOR GENE EARDENSOHN

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember retired U.S. Air Force Major Gene Eardensohn of Charlotte, Vermont who passed away this year on the 29th of June. Major Eardensohn dedicated his life to the defense of our country. After college, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He served as a pilot and flew combat missions throughout the war. He later served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He fought as a command pilot, flying both B-47 and B-52 aircrafts; later becoming an instructor in 11 different aircrafts. He retired having performed an impressive 29,000 flying hours. Major Eardensohn defended his country through three wars; but he was also a father of four children and a grandfather of seven grandchildren. Since retirement his family and friends nicknamed him, "Pilot Extraordinaire" and that is exactly what he was, extraordinary. His courage, devotion and patriotism are now forever preserved in our country's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 435, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LYNCH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a fellow community member and small business leader, Michael Lynch. Mr. Lynch's exemplary contributions to Turlock and surrounding communities in my district have earned him recognition by the Turlock Chamber of Commerce. Not only has the Turlock Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Lynch, Cal Chamber, California's statewide chamber of Commerce, has awarded him the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. This award was created in 1996 by CalChamber to recognize small business owners who have dedicated themselves to small business advocacy not only at a local and state level, but also at a national level.

In 1973, immediately after graduating from Santa Clara University, Mr. Lynch, began his long career of public service by becoming the Administrative Assistant to Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Melarkey. Mr. Lynch worked for Mr. Melarkey for five years before accepting a position at a law firm as a consultant.

After a short time in the private sector, Mr. Lynch accepted the Principal Consultant position at the California Assembly Office of Majority services in 1980. After his service at the California Assembly office, in 1984, he accepted a position as Chief of Staff for California Assemblyman Gary Condit, where he served for 13 years improving the lives of California citizens.

In 2004, Mr. Lynch became the Chief Operating Officer of Great Valley Center. Founded in 1997, the Great Valley Center is an organization whose mission it is to engage the public to take an active role and participate in local government. As the COO of Great Valley Center, Michael Lynch advised and oversaw the organization's efforts in the California Central Valley to promote their mission. One of Mr. Lynch's greatest accomplishments while in office at the Great Valley Center was the merging of the organization with the University of California, Merced. After the successful integration of the university, Mr. Lynch returned to the private sector to found his own consulting firm. Although he runs his own firm, he still finds the time to advance the mission of the Great Valley Center by advocating for small businesses and bringing critical issues to the forefront of public discussions.

In order to effectively promote small business issues, Michael Lynch volunteered as Chairman of the Turlock Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee. As chair of the committee, Michael invites experts to discuss issues with local small business owners in order to keep his community informed. In addition, Mr. Lynch informs the general public and the national small business community about issues affecting Americans by being published in newspapers and business journals.

With his success as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors took notice of his expertise and appointed Mr. Lynch to serve on the County Water Advisory Committee. As part of the committee, he has been a strong advocate for small businesses who are dependent on the water supply. One of the highlights of his service on the advisory committee was the scheduling of regional water issues forums focused on the challenges that face Stanislaus County. Along with scheduling speakers for the forum, Mr. Lynch led conference calls and other outreach activities in order to secure the support and participation of key organizations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Turlock Chamber of Commerce in honoring Michael Lynch; not only for being awarded the CalChamber Small Business Advocate of the Year Award, but also for continuing to volunteer his services to empower citizens and businesses in the Central Valley. California and the members of my district appreciate the 30 years of service Mr. Lynch has put into our great state and community and look forward to his continued support in the future. Thank you Michael Lynch.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK E. PETERSEN JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General (LtGen) Frank E. Petersen Jr., the first African-American to serve as a three-star general officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. At the time of his retirement after 38 years, LtGen Petersen was the senior ranking aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy with the respective titles of "Silver Hawk" and "Gray Eagle". He will be honored on July 28, 2014 for his selfless acts and lifetime of dedication to the Marine Corps and his country.

A Topeka, Kansas native, LtGen Petersen enlisted in the United States Navy in 1950 as a Seaman Apprentice where he served as an Electronics Technician. One year later, he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, earning his commission and the rank of Second Lieutenant with the U.S. Marine Corps upon the completion of flight school in 1952. LtGen Petersen served during the Korean War, where his first tactical assignment was with Marine Fighter Squadron 212. After flying over 64 combat missions, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his combat leadership and bravery on June 15, 1953. He also flew 250 combat missions during the Vietnam conflict, receiving the Purple Heart after enemy anti-aircraft fire brought down his F-4B over the demilitarized zone. In addition, the Marine Corps Aviation Association honored his Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 (VMFA-314) with the inaugural Robert M. Hanson Award for best fighter attack squadron during the Vietnam conflict.

LtGen Petersen was the first African-American to command a Marine Fighter Squadron, a Marine Air Group, a Marine Aircraft Wing, and a major Marine base. On February 23, 1979, he was promoted to Brigadier General, becoming the first African-American general of the Marine Corps. Prior to his retirement, he served as the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Virginia.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps on August 1, 1988, LtGen Petersen concluded a military career of remarkable "firsts". He commanded at every level of command and stood as a trailblazer for all Marines. His autobiography, "Into the Tiger's Jaw", is known as the story of the modern U.S. Marine Corps, providing vital insight into the history of Marine aviation as well as the racial integration of the Marine Corps. Throughout the book's narrative, LtGen Petersen reflects on key moments that defined his life's sacrifices, triumphs, and key personal moments in addition to unequivocally chronicling the racial integration of the Marine Corps.

Throughout his career, LtGen Petersen confronted racism inside and outside the Marine Corps. Nevertheless, as he reflects in his book, the Marine Corps ethos enabled Marines to ultimately triumph over racism. Indeed, his life's commands illustrate the Marine Corps' triumph. In 1970, as deteriorating race relations threatened to rend the nation asun-

der, LtGen Petersen became the Special Assistant for Minority Affairs to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. His guidance to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense served the Marine Corps and the country well during this challenging period.

LtGen Petersen spent his civilian years as vice president of corporate aviation for du Pont de Nemours, Inc. He was also appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education to serve as a Board Member of the Educational Credit Management Corporation.

LtGen Petersen's personal awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; Distinguished Flying Cross; Purple Heart; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; Air Force Commendation Medal; Robert M. Hanson Award for the Most Outstanding Fighter Squadron while assigned in Vietnam, 1968; Man of the Year, NAACP, 1979; Honorary Doctorate, Virginia Union University, 1987; and the Gray Eagle Trophy, August 21, 1987–June 15, 1988.

LtGen Petersen has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 39 years, Alicia, and his children; Frank III, Gayle, Dana, and Lindsey.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, the United States Marine Corps, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Frank E. Petersen Jr., a pioneering leader who, in addition to achieving the distinction of a number of "firsts" for African-Americans, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his fellow Marines and leaves behind an outstanding legacy of service and leadership in the Marine Corps of the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 24, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at the memorial service of a distinguished educator and community leader, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 442 through 450. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 442 I would have voted "no." (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4935 and H.R. 3393.)

2. On rollcall No. 443 I would have voted "no." (H. Res. 680, Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4935, Child Tax Credit Improvement Act and H.R. 3393 Student and Family Tax Simplification Act.)

3. On rollcall No. 444 I would have voted "yes." (Kilmer/Hinojosa/Bachus/Petri/Tsongas Amendment to H.R. 4984, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act, ensuring each individual is aware of financial management resources provided by the Treasury Department's Financial Literacy and Education Commission.)

4. On rollcall No. 445 I would have voted "yes." (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4984, Em-

powering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act.)

5. On rollcall No. 446 I would have voted "yes." (Final Passage of H.R. 4984, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act, Rep. GUTHRIE—Education and the Workforce.)

6. On rollcall No. 447 I would have voted "yes." (H.R. 5111, To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking Rep. BEATTY—Education and the Workforce.)

7. On rollcall No. 448 I would have voted "yes." (Motion to Recommit H.R. 3933, Student and Family Tax Simplification Act.)

8. On rollcall No. 449 I would have voted "no." (Final Passage of H.R. 3393, Student and Family Tax Simplification Act, Rep. BLACK—Ways and Means.)

9. On rollcall No. 450 I would have voted "yes." (Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. Motion offered by Mr. PETERS of California would instruct conferees to recede from disagreement with section 702 of the Senate Amendment, which is related to the approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program conditional on in-State tuition rates for veterans.)

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RON LEGLER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Ron Legler.

Ron is President and CEO of Florida Theatrical Association (FTA). Of his many accolades, Ron was recently recognized as Orlando Business Journal's Most Influential Businessman (Non-Profit) and the Downtown Orlando Partnership's Downtowner of the Year (DOTY). The Metropolitan Business Association of Orlando also awarded him the Debbie Simmons Community Service Award in 2013.

Ron is extremely active in the Orlando community. He serves as a Mayor-appointed Board Member of See Art Orlando. He is also a member of Leadership Orlando—Class of 55 and the Broadway League. Ron has previously served as an Arts Groups Advisory Board member at the Downtown Performing Arts Center, Vice President of the Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance, Chairman of the Downtown Arts District, Vice President of the Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance, and Vice Chairman of Orlando's International Fringe Festival.

Aside from his work with FTA, Ron has helped to spearhead the revitalization of the South Eola district of downtown by purchasing 25,000 square feet of space in The Sanctuary. Ron developed new offices in this space and opened two amazing new entertainment venues, The Abbey and The MEZZ. He formed a partnership with the surrounding businesses and branded the new area "Eola Square." Ron has worked with the Orlando

Ballet, Orlando Philharmonic and the Central Florida Jazz Society to develop intimate programs in The Abbey and The MEZZ that attract new patrons and give donors a closer look into the artistic side of the organizations, all in a risk-free rental environment.

In his more than 13 years as the leader of FTA, Ron has doubled the number of season ticket holders, making Orlando one of the country's top one-week Broadway markets. He also works with Broadway producers to attract the best possible touring shows to the Orlando market.

I am happy to honor Ron Legler, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work to further the arts in Central Florida.

HONORING ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Ibleto for his induction into the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame. Art's contributions to our community are innumerable and far-reaching; therefore, it is appropriate that we honor and recognize him today.

Art was born and raised in Sesta Godano, Italy, which is where he first cultivated his lifelong love for good Italian cooking. When World War II erupted, Art served as a young demolition specialist in Italy, planting explosives under bridges, railroads and in highway tunnels to hinder the Nazi advance. After the war, Art made his way to Sonoma County in search of a brighter future and immediately immersed himself in the Sonoma County agricultural community. When he first arrived in the U.S., Art worked in the field picking vegetables at the Ghirardelli Ranch in Petaluma, which is where he met his wife, Vicki Ghirardelli. Since then, he has gone on to contribute to our agriculture community in many ways. From being an experienced meat cutter and farmer, to growing quality grapes and making superb wines, it's hard to think of an area of agriculture that Art hasn't left an indelible mark on.

In addition to his agricultural endeavors, Art is perhaps best known for his role as the beloved "Pasta King". For the past fifty years, Art has shared his gift for cooking authentic Italian food through his renowned Pasta King catering business. Art the Pasta King has been by my side at more of my events than I can count. He volunteers to cook at more community events and for more charitable causes than I could possibly list here. Art is truly committed to giving back to our community, to an extent that most of us will only ever hope to emulate. Art's unwavering passion and dedication to our community is an inspiration to all. And in turn, Art is beloved by all in our community.

But most importantly, I know Art as my friend who loves his family, his friends and our community. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure and honor to recognize my good friend Art Ibleto today.

H.R. 3136 AND H.R.4984

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the two bipartisan higher education bills we are considering this week—the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act (H.R. 3136) and the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act (H.R. 4984).

H.R. 3136, on the floor today, allows schools to pilot new competency-based education programs to give students more flexibility to pursue their educations. By exploring new options to measure student growth, rather than relying solely on completed credit hours, we can reduce costs and time to degree for non-traditional students.

H.R. 4984, which we will consider tomorrow, increases financial counseling for students and parents to ensure that they understand any lower-cost options that are available before turning to more expensive loans, have an accurate picture of their debt and obligations, and can predict and manage their monthly payments upon graduation.

While I support both of these efforts, much more needs to be done to ensure that students have access to affordable education and address college debt, which has now surpassed \$1 trillion. I look forward to working on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and give America's students the opportunity to pursue the skills and education they need without accumulating debt they can't afford.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4870 DEFENSE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2014, I offered an amendment to this legislation to address another facet of a national tragedy: the epidemic of suicide among our soldiers and veterans.

In March of this year, zero U.S. troops died in combat. In that same month, almost 700 soldiers and veterans died at their own hand.

This bill takes really enormous strides to treat the mental health problems underlying this epidemic. It provides tens of millions of dollars for therapy, outreach, and peer-to-peer support—and for that, the chairman and the ranking member, all the committee members, have my sincere praise and gratitude.

Suicide and the decision to take one's own life is complex and often mysterious, but we err if we think suicide is only a mental health problem. In truth, suicide is often the desperate act of a soldier or veteran in a desperate situation—and one important component of that desperation is financial stress.

My amendment has been endorsed by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. It would set aside up to \$1 million to study these issues: to improve our understanding of the

links between financial stress, financial abuse, and military suicide, and generate recommendations to fix these interlinked problems.

A few years ago, Army Sergeant Angelo Stevens was living with \$100,000 in debt. He had just been told that, because of his deteriorating finances, he was at risk of losing his security clearance. If he lost his clearance, he would lose his job—which would make his debt even more unmanageable.

Sergeant Stevens met with a military financial planner. He left feeling hopeless and humiliated. He told a reporter, "I walked out thinking, 'If I'm dead my family can get \$500,000 in life insurance, but I have to kill myself.'"

Now, Sergeant Stevens ultimately found help and survived, but he was far from alone in his desperation. According to the Defense Department's Suicide Event Report, in 2011, almost one in three military suicides was linked to workplace or financial problems. About one in 10 was directly associated with excessive debt or bankruptcy. Nearly half were associated with family or legal stress that might also be related to financial stress. These numbers surely underestimate the problem, as financial data wasn't even collected for many suicide deaths.

So we know, through personal stories like Sergeant Stevens' and through existing data, that financial stress is a major contributor to military suicide. But here's what we don't know.

We don't know, in many cases of military suicide, whether financial stress contributed to the soldier's decision to take his or her own life.

We don't know how many soldiers lose their security clearances because of personal financial problems, nor how the loss of a clearance contributes to mental health problems or suicide.

We don't know, in any evidence-based way, whether existing military financial planning programs are working to alleviate financial stress, financial abuse, mental health problems, or suicide risk.

We need to understand the effects of financial stress and financial abuse on mental health problems, including suicide, among our soldiers. We need to understand how effectively the Defense Department is providing adequate, unbiased, comprehensive financial planning and financial counseling—and we need to understand the obstacles that prevent military personnel from seeking these services.

We need to understand how effectively the suicide prevention programs at the Defense Department, the VA, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are working together, and how they could work together better.

And we need to build connections between the mental health professionals and the financial planning professionals who serve our soldiers. Mental health problems and financial problems both contribute to suicide, and we should explore ways to treat these problems together rather than separately.

Earlier, I told the story of Sergeant Angelo Stevens. He was one of the lucky ones. A financial planner overheard his accounting of his struggles, and on her personal time, she helped him put his financial life back together. With a lot of help, Sergeant Stevens stepped back from the abyss.

But he got that help only by coincidence, not by design. We can do better. We can design our military to be more responsive, compassionate, and helpful to soldiers like Sergeant Stevens. We can pull more soldiers back from the abyss.

I appreciate my House colleagues' support for this amendment, and I hope that in any House-Senate conference on the final DoD appropriations bill this amendment will be retained. We need this information. It will help us save lives.

**PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING
AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of H.R. 4980, which would prevent the sex trafficking of foster youth, promote adoption, and strengthen international child support.

This measure represents an agreement with Senators WYDEN and HATCH on three bipartisan bills that the House passed overwhelmingly: the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act, the International Child Support Recovery Im-

provement Act, and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act. I voted to approve all three.

While this bill does not address every challenge of foster youth and child sex trafficking facing our nation, it is a positive first step. It also demonstrates Congress can work together to prevent the negative treatment of foster youth that can lead to child sex trafficking. For children involved with the state child welfare agency, states must develop methods to identify, document, and determine services for victims of child sex trafficking and those who are at risk of becoming victims. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national advisory committee which will have two years to review, and recommend best practices to states to address sex trafficking of children and youth.

In my home state of Oregon, 8,686 children were in foster care on an average daily basis last year and 12,366 children spent at least one day in foster care of some kind. Nationally, the average foster child will spend nearly two years in foster care and will change homes an average of three times. The legislation also provides a much needed continuation of adoption incentives and FY14 Family Connection grants. It also includes a number of helpful provisions targeted at protecting our most vulnerable youth from becoming victims and oftentimes repeat victims of trafficking.

I will continue to work towards further efforts in Congress to end child sex trafficking and

improve our foster care system so that our communities can be safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

**TRIBUTE TO THE JEMISON
FAMILY**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a way of staying connected, keeping relationships intact, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Jemison family on the occasion of their family reunion which is being held at the Best Western in Hillside, Illinois on July 24, 2014 through July 27, 2014. I commend you for the research done to establish your family tree and trust that you have a wonderful weekend.

There is nothing quite like a family reunion, there is nothing quite like seeing relatives that you have not seen for a while and there is nothing like sharing the joy of fellowship, love, and precious memories that family reunions generate. Therefore, I commend and congratulate you and pray that you have a wonderful weekend.